Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), who also examined this question recommended that major coconut growing State Governments including Karnataka should set up a net work of coconut purchase points so as to organize direct price support to coconuts based on Minimum Support Price of copra, and simultaneously augment the capacity to process and market diversified coconut products. This recommendation has been accepted by the Union Government and forwarded to the States for implementation.

Study of Astrology in Universities

† *515. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce the study of astrology in Universities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the justification for starting a new course in Universities, when they are already facing paucity of funds for their existing courses?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) This decision has been taken by the UGC.

(b) and (c) The UGC is of the view that there is need to rejuvenate Jyotir Vigyan and to undertake urgent scientific study and research in this area. The introduction of a course in Jyotir Vigyan shall in Universities not
have any adverse impact on existing courses, as the UGC has not reduced grants allocated for other courses.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.